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# **Environment and Natural Resources Committee DRAFT Minutes**

September 1, 2010 - 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Mike Sullivan – Kane Kendall Conference of Mayors, Joe

Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies,

Tina Seaman – Openlands, Ingrid Danler – Fox Waterway Agency, Melinda Pruett-Jones – Chicago Wilderness

Staff Present: Jesse Elam, Hala Ahmed, Diana Hawken, Tim Loftus, Ylda

Cappriccioso

Others Present: None

#### 1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am; a round of introductions followed.

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Jesse mentioned that the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority had scheduled a luncheon to discuss the "State of the Tollway" on September 22 at CMAP.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2010

The minutes were approved with no changes.

## 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

The Planning and Programming Committees had not met since May.

## 5.0 GO TO 2040 Partnership Update

Diana briefly explained that the partnership program is meant to give organizations a way to stay engaged in regional planning and to help amplify some of the recommendations being made in *GO TO 2040*. A member asked if there was a list of current partners – Diana said she would look to find out.

#### 6.0 Synopsis of public comments on GO TO 2040 Plan

Ylda gave a brief description of the comments received on the plan and also provided a memo on the legislative activity of interest to CMAP over the regular session of the General Assembly. Jack mentioned that there is an environment/energy group of nonprofit organizations, and that CMAP and others on the ENR committee are welcome to join them. Ingrid mentioned that she would like to have added to the list of legislation

to watch bills regarding shoreline stabilization. The Fox Waterway Agency is urging passage of such a program for its area.

#### 7.0 Update on CMAP watershed planning and the FPA amendment process

Tim announced that CMAP is about to begin four new watershed planning processes in the Fox River basin, mentioning that among their novel aspects they would be using the water quality model that the Illinois State Water Survey has developed and that they would be trying to address groundwater quantity and quality. A members asked how the projects would affect the Wastewater Committee. Tim responded that they would have no effect on the Wastewater Committee in the short term. Jesse described how and why CMAP carries out some of its Clean Water Act-related activities. Ingrid asked whether sedimentation issues would be considered, and how the TMDL development process fits into the watershed plans. Tim then brought up the other topic of his update, the potential changes to the FPA amendment process. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is, he said, expected to argue (the day following the ENR committee meeting) to the Illinois Pollution Control Board that IEPA should no longer deny sewer construction permits for sanitary sewers that would cross an FPA boundary. Thus, IEPA would no longer review enlargements of the area to be served by sewers. A member asked if IEPA was trying to eliminate the FPA program. Tim said he believed the intent was to "tweak" the program, and that he didn't believe planning could fully replace project review; he felt the overall change in the program would be minor. Another member asked if IEPA would be willing to delegate authority to CMAP to greenlight or deny plant and facility planning area expansions. Tim responded that CMAP had no intention of requesting it, and IEPA had not offered; CMAP's recommendations would continue to be recommendations only. Another member wondered if projects not receiving State Revolving Funds (SRF) would receive any kind of review for consistency with wider planning issues, and mentioned that when discussions were being held regarding the Developments of Regional Importance, he assumed the FPA review process would exist at the same time. A question was asked as to whether past data could be examined to determine the number of applications that were private or non-SRF, and Tim answered that these data could be investigated. Members asked if there was a public comment period on IEPA's decision, whether the Wastewater Committee could make a comment, whether the CMAP Board would comment, and whether IEPA's decision would affect the contract with CMAP. Tim thought it would be 30 or 45 days, and said that the Board probably would not comment. He also felt the Wastewater Committee's role was limited by statute to reviewing amendments to the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan, not making policy recommendations. The changes proposed by IEPA were not expected to affect the contract with CMAP. A member noted that he felt the IEPA owes the committee more clarity.

## 7.0 Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison